Chapter 14: The Mysterious Transforming HSG! Part 2

"GORIRAIRI" ...

...WAS THE NAME PEOPLE USED TO CALL ME BY AND TEASE ME WITH...

...A LONG TIME AGO.

IT WAS ROUGH, BUT MY ONE GOOD POINT WAS THAT I WAS ALWAYS CHEERFUL ...

...SO I'D GO WITH THE FLOW AND CRACK GORILLA JOKES.

SHE'S SO STRONG...

IN MY THIRD YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH, THOUGH, I FELL FOR A CLASSMATE. IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT...

HIS NAME WAS OKADA. HE WAS THE MOST POPULAR GUY AMONG THE GIRLS...

...AND HE THOUGHT MY JOKES WERE HILARIOUS.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, I FELT LUCKY TO BE A GORILLA.

THE NEXT THING I KNEW, WE'D BECOME A SORT OF COMEDY DUO.

OKADA WOULD FEED ME SETUP LINES, AND I'D PLAY DUMB.

JUST BEING NEXT TO HIM MADE ME HAPPY.

THAT'S WHY I REALLY COMMITTED TO THE GORILLA ACT EVERY DAY.

I-IF YOU TELL ME STUFF LIKE THAT...

...I'LL FALL FOR YOU, Y'KNOW!?

KAAAA (BLUSH)

あああ

HUH ...?

I FEEL LIKE I HAVE THE MOST FUN WHEN I'M WITH YOU, RAIRI.

THAT'S FINE.

GO AHEAD.

WOW...

カリカリ

GATA (CLATTER)

GATA

DWEEEH !?

THAT GUY...

WELL...

HE ALREADY HAD A GIRL-FRIEND.

I JUST HAPPENED TO SPOT THEM TOGETHER.

SHE WAS GORGEOUS— AN AMATEUR FASHION MAGAZINE MODEL ONE GRADE BELOW US.

YUU-KUN.

YOU'VE BEEN SPENDING A LOT OF TIME WITH GORILLA-SAN LATELY.

DON'T TELL ME YOU LIKE HER.

HUH?

SHE'S IMPORTANT TO ME AS A COMEDY PARTNER.

I CAN'T BE FUNNY IF SHE'S NOT AROUND.

SO YOU'RE A COMEDIAN NOW? THAT'S HILARIOUS (LOL).

AH HA HA!

HELL NO.

NAH...

NO GORILLAS FOR ME, THANKS.

WELL, I WANNA BE POPULAR, Y'KNOW?

ESPECIALLY IF MY GIRL-FRIEND'S A MODEL.

OOH, YOU'RE DOING IT FOR ME? I WUV YOU! ♡

BUT I THINK GORILLA-SAN LIKES YOU, YUU-KUN.

HE'S THE WORST ...!!

GURURU (GRRRR)

グルル…

I WANNA STOMP HIM FLAT...

I CAN SAY, "WELL, DUH," AND LAUGH ABOUT IT NOW...

...BUT AT THE TIME, I TOOK IT PRETTY HARD.

BIKI (KRIKL?)

ビキ

C'MON, GORIRAIRI! ♪ GORIRAIRI! ♪

PAN

DO THAT THING YOU ALWAYS DO.

C'MON, THAT'S NO FUN.

PAN (CLAP)

SOMEONE'S BEEN PRETTY DOWN IN THE DUMPS LATELY.

HERE! I BROUGHT THE THING YOU LIKE MOST!

FOR REAL, THOUGH. WHAT'S UP?

.....

GORIRAIRI!

GORIRAIRI!

BASHI (WHOMP)

OOOOGH!

YOU WANNA PLAY WITH A GORILLA THAT BADLY?

OKAY. LET'S PLAY.

ウホオオオ…

I HATE IT ALL!!

I HATE IDIOTS WHO CAN'T IMAGINE HOW OTHER PEOPLE FEEL...

EEK!

EEK!

...OR GUYS WHO STRING YOU ALONG WHEN THEY'VE GOT GIRL-FRIENDS ALREADY!

I HATE THIS DAMN WORLD THAT SHUTS OUT UGLY PEOPLE...

...MY FACE...

...AND MYSELF!

DO (THUD)

DO

DO

DO

special sale

I HATE IT AAAALL!!

OOOOH!

EEEEK!

DOSA (FWUMP)

GAKU (CLURCH)

I'D EVEN BE TURNED OFF BY WHAT I DID.

...I LANDED IN SOME THICK BUSHES NEXT TO THE ROAD AND ENDED UP IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A MONTH.

I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER THE REST, BUT THANK-FULLY...

AAAAAH .....

I THOUGHT THEY WERE STILL LAUGHING.

...BUT MY HEART STAYED FROZEN.

OKADA AND SOME OF MY CLASSMATES CAME BY TO VISIT LATER TO APOLOGIZE...

I WAS THE ONE WHO HATED MYSELF THE MOST, AFTER ALL.

LOOKING IN MIRRORS STARTED TO SCARE ME...

...AND EVERY DAY, I TRIED TO THINK OF WHAT WOULD ALLOW ME TO LIKE MYSELF.

...THAT WAS WHEN...

...I FOUND THIS—

A LIP COLOR AND EYE-SHADOW PALETTE.

IT WAS A BONUS ITEM FROM A MAGAZINE SOMEBODY GAVE ME WHEN I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL.

IT WAS MADE IN COLLABORATION WITH ARISA NAKAMURA, A POPULAR MODEL...

...AND IT SAYS, "YOU TOO CAN HAVE A FACE LIKE ARISA'S. ♡"

HA!

DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE GORILLAS ...

BUT THAT NIGHT ...

PARIN (SHATTER)

!!

ウホーッ!!

OOOOGH!

!?

.....

...YOU SEEM DIFFERENT TODAY.

HUH? RAIMU-CHAN...

IT'S CUTE!

HUH?

YOUR FACE LOOKS BRIGHTER.

ARE YOU WEARING MAKEUP?

OOH!

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DONDOKO DONDOKO DONDOKO

DONDOKO DONDOKO DONDOKO DONDOKO DONDOKO DONDOKO (THUMP)

ドコドンドコドンドコドンドコドンドコドンドコ

CUTE .....?

ME.....?

DONDOKO DONDOKO

ドンドコドンドコ

ドンドコドンドコドンドコドンドコドンドコ

I ONLY MANAGED TO START LIKING MYSELF...

...JUST RECENTLY.

.....
AMAZING
...

ONCE I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL, I WORKED PART-TIME JOBS LIKE CRAZY TO EARN MONEY FOR MAKEUP.

I STUDY EVERY DAY, USING ALL SORTS OF COSMETICS BOOKS AS REFERENCE!

WOW
...

AH HA HA!

HOW HARD DID YOU HAVE TO WORK TO PICK UP THOSE TECHNIQUES ...!?

HONESTLY, I'M STILL NOT THAT CONFIDENT.

I CAME CLOSE TO GIVING UP A TON OF TIMES, BUT...

...AND WHEN NOBODY COMPLIMENTED ME, I'D GET UNEASY.

WHILE PRACTICING, I'D REDO MY MAKEUP OVER AND OVER UNTIL MY SKIN GOT ROUGH...

...WHILE STANDING IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR.

"HAPPY PEACE!"...

...WHENEVER I GOT TO THAT POINT, I'D GIVE MYSELF A PEP TALK AND SAY, "YOU GOT THIS! YOU'RE SUPER-CUTE!

GOTCHA...!

KOKU (NOD)

KOKU

DON'T TELL ANYBODY AT SCHOOL THAT I'M A GORILLA, 'KAY?

BUT EVEN NOW, I CAN ONLY REALLY SHOW MY REAL FACE TO PEOPLE I TRUST.

Happy peace

Happy peace

I WANT TO MAKE COSMETICS ...

...THAT'LL GIVE GIRLS LIKE ME, WHO DON'T HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE, THE CHANCE TO CHANGE THEMSELVES.

IN THE FUTURE, I WANT TO LAUNCH MY OWN MAKEUP BRAND.

I'VE GOT THIS DREAM, YOU SEE.

AH!

?

HM?

A KAIJU??

MAKE STUFF THAT WOULD TURN EVEN A KAIJU CUTE!

I MEAN, I HOPE YOU CAN MAKE COSMETICS THAT WORK THAT WELL .....

OH... NO, UM...

IT'S SO THAT I'LL GET JOBS!

THAT'S WHY I INSTA LIKE CRAZY EVERY DAY.

IT'LL HAPPEN! I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT, KAIRI-SAN...

GOT IT! I'LL DO JUST THAT!

I'LL MAKE EVERYBODY CUTE—GORILLAS AND KAIJUS INCLUDED!

RAIRI-SAN'S SO STRONG.

I GUESS WONDERFUL PEOPLE LIKE HER...

...HAVE GOOD REASONS FOR BEING THE WAY THEY ARE...

I'LL HAVE TO DO MY BEST TOO...

WELCOME BACK, KURO-TA—

NNNNN!?

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE!!?

BEING AROUND RAIRI-SAN MAKES ME FEEL POSITIVE.

I'M HOOOME.

HUH?

JUMBO KING, YOU TOO!?

IS IT SOMETHING TO GET THAT STARTLED ABOUT!?

DOBABABA (BAAARF)

ARE YOU WEARING MAKEUP!?

HMPH!

I DON'T THINK IT SUITS YOU, KURO-TAN.

MOMMY LIKES YOUR REAL FACE.

...EXCEPT IT'S FOR MINAMI-KUN, RIGHT?

I'LL DECIDE WHICH "ME" I LIKE!!

BAN (SLAM)

HMPH!

WHATEVER HAPPENS, DON'T COME CRYING TO ME.

I WANT TO BE MENTALLY STRONG TOO...

HAAH...

PIKO (BING)

ピコ

GUNUNU (STARE)

ど、どうなの…

DOES IT REALLY NOT LOOK GOOD?

NO... RAIRI-SAN'S SKILLS ARE SOLID. I KNOW THEY ARE.

!

Are you ready for the field trip the day after tomorrow? I'm looking forward to Okutama!

MMMMM (FIDGET)

WILL WE GET TO BE TOGETHER DURING FREE TIME ...?

! COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT IT...

THE FIELD TRIP ...

MAYBE I'LL TAKE THE LIPSTICK WITH ME.

AFTER ALL...IT MADE MINAMI-KUN HAPPY.

I THINK.

CHU (KISS)

GACHA (KACHAK)

KURO-TAN, DINNER-TIME!

HARUGON!!

WHAT WAS THAT FOR!?

HEY!!

YOU'LL DISTURB EVERYONE IN TOKYO !!

EEEK!

WAS THAT HARUGON !?

AAAAAAH!!

AAAGH!

DON'T WALK IN ON ME LIKE THAT!!

TWO DAYS LATER

WE'RE ON OUR FIELD TRIP TODAY!

THOSE OF YOU WHO AREN'T USED TO YOUR NEW CLASSES YET, TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO.....

I VERY MUCH WANTED TO BARBECUE WITH YOU, KUROE-SAN.

AW...

YEAH... IT'S TOO BAD.

SHALL WE GO SEE THE OGOUCHI DAM TOGETHER DURING FREE TIME?

WE MAY FIND A GIANT STAG BEETLE THERE. ♡

!

HUH?

...IT SEEMS YOU HAVE A PRIOR ENGAGEMENT. ♡

...WELL, THAT WAS THE PLAN I HAD IN MIND, BUT...

I SEE YOU'VE HIT THE JACK-POT.

O-OKAY.

AND HEY, WE'RE IN THE SAME GROUP.

LET'S GO GET THE BARBECUE INGREDIENTS!

LOOK AT THAT! YOU TWO ARE GETTING ALONG JUST FINE. ♪

COLOR ME ENVY!

R-RAIRI-SAN!

KAAA (BLUSH)

かぁ。あっ。

LOOKS LIKE THERE'S ANOTHER HIGH SCHOOL HERE.

IT'S PRETTY CROWDED, ISN'T IT?

I'M STARVING...

RAIRI-SAN!?

THIS SCHOOL HAS WAAAY BETTER MEAT THAN WE DO!

WHOA, HOLD IT!

AH HA HA!

WANT SOME?

HUH?

FOR REAL?

RAIRI-SAN?

DO (THUMP)

!!!

.....

OKADA.

HUH?

HE KNOWS RAIRI-SAN'S BARE FACE!!

CRAP, CRAP, CRAP!

WHOA! (LOLOL.) YOUR FACE LOOKS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!! (LOLOL.)

UH...

HUUUH!?

BA (BAM)

はっ!!

IN MY THIRD YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH, THOUGH, I FELL FOR A CLASSMATE. IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT...

OKADA ...?

JUUU (SIZZZ)

?

HAVE WE MET?

HUH?